



Foto: Aleksandra Kurvits-Vahter

ANDRES SIIRDE: nearly two decades with Oil Shale

The approaching departure of Andres Siirde as Editor-in-Chief of *Oil Shale* marks the end of an important chapter in the history of the journal and Estonian oil shale research. He has been part of the journal's editorial leadership team for almost 20 years, first serving as Deputy Editor-in-Chief from 2008 to 2018, and then as Editor-in-Chief from 2019 to the present. During this time, he has not only helped the journal maintain its position in the fields of oil shale geology, chemistry, energy, technology and environmental impacts, but also helped to strengthen it.

As Editor-in-Chief, he has consistently upheld the scientific quality of published articles and promoted a balanced approach to the topics addressed. Under his leadership, *Oil Shale* has continued to serve as an independent international scientific journal dedicated to oil shale research, even as the role of oil shale in Estonia's energy sector and society has undergone far-reaching changes and been subject to intense debate. Thanks to Andres, the journal has preserved continuity in knowledge and experience, and he has consistently supported opportunities for young researchers to publish their work.

At editorial board meetings and in private conversations, Andres Siirde has repeatedly emphasised the need to address the present and future use of Estonian oil shale on a scientific basis. His conviction is aptly summarised by the following statement: ‘Oil shale can never be fully studied.’ He regards oil shale not merely as an important domestic resource, but also as the foundation of the scientific, technological, and industrial expertise that has been developed in Estonia over many decades. He firmly advocates continuing research and development in the oil shale field, improving existing processes, reducing environmental impacts, and searching for higher-value applications for oil shale.

We would like to thank Andres Siirde for his long-standing, dedicated, and responsible work. His contributions to the development of the journal and the preservation of knowledge in the field of oil shale will endure long after he hands over his responsibilities as Editor-in-Chief.

We wish Andres continued energy, fresh ideas, and enduring enthusiasm in all his future endeavours!

Oliver Järvik and Alar Konist, members of the Editorial Board